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TO ANGLICAN MEMBERS OF ARCIC-II

It gives me great pleasure to write to you to tell you that the membership of the new Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission will be jointly announced in London on the 13th June - just over a year since the historic meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope John Paul II in Canterbury Cathedral and immediately after a planning meeting between the Co-Chairmen, Co-Secretaries, the Secretary-General of the Anglican Consultative Council and representation from the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (9th-10th June). Mgr. Richard Stewart and I will be writing to you about this preparatory meeting shortly.

In the meantime I would ask you to keep the membership of the new Commission confidential till the 13th of this month. After this there is no discouragement to giving interviews or to making known your membership in whatever way is appropriate - especially the official information channels of your Province. I enclose the list of members.

For your own preparation for the first meeting I also enclose a copy of the working agenda jointly agreed in Rome last November, together with some 'agreed notes' upon it compiled at the same time. These will also be useful if questions are put to you about the work of the Commission. But they should not be given to the press or media directly. They may well be modified by the Commission itself as it begins its work. I also enclose a personal article on the new Commission which will appear in the Oxford Diocesan Magazine next month. This can be used in any way you wish - but it is not an 'official' text.

Finally, with this letter you will find another from the Revd. George Braund, OGS, Ecumenical Secretary of the Anglican Consultative Council, about travel to Venice.

I must finally apologize that the announcement of ARCIC-II is somewhat delayed. I hope this has not been too great an inconvenience for you.

I genuinely greatly look forward to seeing you in Venice, and, as I noted earlier, will be writing to you again in the near future to tell you of the proposals of the joint planning meeting.

* Duplicate

